

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: THE MARCH 5 BAVARIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

REF: MUNICH 987

1. MARCH 5 IS MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY IN BAVARIA.
BAVARIAN VOTERS WILL ELECT: (A) LORD MAYORS (OBERBURGER-
MEISTER) IN 15 OF BAVARIA'S 25 LARGEST CITIES AND TOWNS,
INCLUDING MUNICH; (B) 1,116 CITY COUNCILMEN IN THESE
SAME 25 URBAN CENTERS; (C) 29,282 COUNCILMEN IN
BAVARIA'S 2,030 OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES; (D) COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS (LANDRAETE) IN 66 OF BAVARIA'S 71
COUNTIES; AND (E) A TOTAL OF 4,170 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
(KREISRAETE).

2. THE LORD MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MUNICH
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ARE FAR AND AWAY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THE MARCH 5
ELECTIONS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FRG NATIONAL POLITICS
(REFTEL). OF THE REMAINING ELECTIONS, THE LORD MAYOR
ELECTIONS IN AUGSBURG, REGENSBURG AND
WUERZBURG ARE THE MOST NOTEWORTHY. NUERNBERG,
BAVARIA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, WILL NOT RPT NOT ELECT
A LORD MAYOR ON MARCH 5.

3. INCUMBENT SPD LORD MAYORS ARE SEEKING REELECTION IN AUGSBURG AND WUERZBURG. IN AUGSBURG THE INCUMBENT IS EXPECTED TO BE REELECTED BY A COMFORTABLE MARGIN. IN WUERZBURG THE INCUMBENT IS FAVORED IN WHAT COULD BE A HORSE RACE. ALTHOUGH REGENSBURG'S INCUMBENT SPD LORD MAYOR IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION, THE SPD IS LIKELY TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE RATHAUS.

4. THE TWO RECENTLY FOUNDED SPLINTER GROUPS, THE CHRISTIAN VOTERS UNION (CHRISTLICHE WAEHLERUNION) WHICH SPLIT OFF FROM THE CSU AS RESULT OF THE NOVEMBER 1976 KREUTH DECISION, AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (SOCIALE DEMOKRATISCHEUNION) OF DR. GUENTHER WEBER, HAVE FIELDDED CANDIDATES IN A HANDFUL OF LOCALITIES. THE CVU IS RUNNING CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN THE FRANCONIAN CITIES OF NUERNBERG, ERLANGEN, BAYREUTH AND SCHWEINFURT, WHILE THE SDU HAS ENTERED CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN A SMALL CITY NEAR NEU ULM AS WELL AS CANDIDATES FOR THE NEU ULM KREISTAG. THESE SPLINTER GROUPS HAVE CLEARLY NOT CAUGHT FIRE. BETTS

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